

**Revival of FACT**

2530. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given an assurance to the delegation led by the Kerala Chief Minister on 15th December, 1998 that a High Power Committee would be constituted to look into the revival of FACT;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have granted the following financial reliefs to the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT):

- (i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 226.88 crore for the period from 1998-99 to 2001-02 on the OECF loan drawn from the Government of India by FACT for its Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal.
- (ii) Moratorium on principal repayment of FACT up to 31.3.2002 on the balance OECF loan amounting to Rs. 378.20 crore drawn from Government of India.
- (iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on FACT for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest of the OECF loan after assistance as at (i) & (ii) above being granted.

**Fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers**

2531. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministerial group headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission is seriously considering a proposal to issue fertilizer subsidy coupons to farmers or to provide cash subsidy against Kisan cards;

(b) if so, whether this question was taken up by the Ministerial Group in the month of July, 2002;